

SOURCE REF:

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ITEM NO: WH-3

DATE: 30 MAY 1974

SUBJECT: GREECE-TURKEY--AEGEAN DISPUTE

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A GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US AMBASSADOR TASCA THAT "TWO" TURKISH SHIPS--PROBABLY CONVERTED MINESWEEPERS-- HAVE BEEN SIGHTED ENTERING THE DISPUTED AREA IN THE EASTERN AEGEAN THIS MORNING. THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT THE SHIPS APPARENTLY ARE INTENDED FOR OIL EXPLORATION AND ARE ACCOMPANIED BY TURKISH NAVAL UNITS.

HE INDICATED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING A VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF THE MATTER AND WAS PARTICULARLY ANNOYED BECAUSE TURKISH NAVAL MANEUVERS IN THE AEGEAN HAD BEEN APPROVED UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE TURKISH SHIPS WERE INTENDED TO JOIN IN THE EXERCISE "GOOD FRIENDSHIP". (A PRESS REPORT FROM ANKARA

DATE:
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CLASSIFICATION

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DATE-TIME GROUP

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INDICATES THAT US SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXERCISE ARE NOW IN THE TURKISH PORT OF IZMIR; THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE IZMIR WITH TURKISH SHIPS FOR THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN ON SUNDAY.} THE GREEK OFFICIAL ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT GREECE WOULD REMAIN "COOL-HEADED" ABOUT THE MATTER. PRESS REPORTS FROM ATHENS INDICATE THAT THE GREEK CABINET IS HOLDING AN EMERGENCY MEETING.

THE US CONSUL IN THESSALONIKI REPORTS THAT FORCES IN NORTHERN GREECE HAVE BEEN ALERTED AND THAT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE THESSALONIKI AREA.

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